



April 29, 2019

The Hon. Ruth V. McGregor
Chief Justice, Supreme Court of the State of Arizona (retired)
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Justice McGregor:

A member of the ASU Economics faculty has publicly accused the University of unethical behavior regarding the selection of required textbooks and courseware in introductory Economics classes. The University has received numerous inquiries from concerned students and community members regarding these allegations.

In order to address the concerns of students and community members that have been shared with us, I am asking you to conduct an independent review and prepare a report summarizing the following information for the time period from January 1, 2014 through the present:

1. The terms of any contracts between Arizona State University and any provider of adaptive courseware.
2. The terms and amounts of any grants or donations received by Arizona State University from Cengage for any purpose.
3. The terms and amounts of any grants or donations received by Arizona State University from any entity for the development of adaptive learning courses in any subject, including Economics.
4. Any payments received by Arizona State University from Cengage, including the date, amount, recipient, and purpose.
5. Any payments made by Arizona State University to Cengage, including the date, amount, recipient, and purpose.
6. A comparison of the costs of required materials (text, courseware, and/or course fees) between adaptive and traditional sections of ECN 211 and 212.
7. A comparison of the actual distribution of grades in ECN and 211 and 212 between adaptive and traditional sections of the course.

I ask that you complete your work and submit your report, if possible, no later than **Friday, May 17**. If you are able to complete your work more quickly, that would be appreciated. As part of your review, you will be provided access to university administration, staff and faculty to discuss this matter with them as you believe appropriate. Attached to this letter as Attachment A is contact information for individuals to whom you may wish to speak; you are of course welcome to speak with whomever you identify as relevant.

You will receive full cooperation from all University employees who you contact, including answering any questions and providing any documents you request. If you have any difficulties obtaining information, please contact the Office of General Counsel for their assistance. The Office of General Counsel is available to assist with any logistics of scheduling meetings, providing space, and obtaining documents.

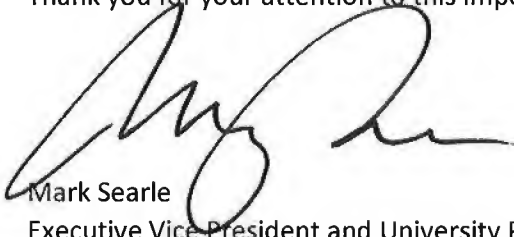
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In addition, you are welcome to speak with any students who wish to speak with you regarding this matter. I have enclosed a copy of the Resolution adopted by our Undergraduate Student Government that relates to this matter; that resolution identifies the student senators who authored it. In addition, information about the student government and its representatives is available at <https://eoss.asu.edu/studentgov>.

Along with your report, please provide copies of any documentation referenced in the report. The University will publicly distribute your report and supporting documentation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Searle', is written over the printed name and title.

Mark Searle
Executive Vice President and University Provost

ATTACHMENT A – Contact Information

Mark Searle, Executive Vice President and University Provost, MARK.SEARLE@asu.edu, 480-965-9585

Art Blakemore, Vice Provost for Student Success, former Chair of the Department of Economics, Arthur.Blakemore@asu.edu, 480-965-9032

Amy Hillman, Dean, W.P. Carey School of Business, AMY.HILLMAN@asu.edu, 480-965-3402

Gustavo Ventura, Chair, Department of Economics, Gustavo.Ventura@asu.edu, 480-965-5881

Jose Mendez, Assistant Department Chair, Department of Economics, jose.mendez@asu.edu, 480-965-2723

Brian Goegan, Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Economics (contact information available from Office of General Counsel)

In addition, faculty, staff, and student contact information is generally available on ASU's website at <https://isearch.asu.edu/>.